

Homiletics Workshop

Part 2: KEY ELEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE TEACHINGS

Introduction

Last week, we explored how to create a teaching from your text. This week, we explore other key elements that go into effective teachings. I have arranged these elements chronologically: before, during, and after your teaching.

Before

Start as early as possible.

Bathe your disciplined preparation in prayer.

- ILLUMINATION

- YOUR AUDIENCE

- UTTERANCE

Anticipate and prayerfully resist Satan's attacks.

- Satan will accuse *you* (“You can’t teach;” “You don’t understand this passage;” “You’re going to blow it;” “You are disqualified because of your sin/fear;” etc.).

- Satan will accuse *God’s Word* (“They already know this;” “This doesn’t make sense;” “This is irrelevant/stupid;” etc.).

- Satan will accuse *your audience* (“They don’t care;” “They aren’t interested in Christ,” etc.).

- Ask people to pray for you, and ask people to pray *with* you—especially when you feel oppressed, confused, intimidated, etc.

Teaching preparation check-list:

- “Am I bringing **both** ‘heat’ **and** ‘light?’”

- “Am I speaking **both** as a fellow-learner/sinner **and** as God’s spokes-person?”

- “Am I speaking **both** seriously **and** with joy and humor?”

- “Am I intelligible to **non-Christians** and **new Christians**?”

Keep your teaching notes to a minimum!

During

Verbal and non-verbal communication:

- *Voice:* Effective speech is *varied* in volume, rate, and tone.
- *Eyes:* Make direct eye-contact with many individuals in your audience.
- *Face:* Much of what we communicate emotionally is transmitted through facial gestures.
- *Body Language:* Give yourself the freedom to be physically expressive!
- NOTE: If you are inexperienced in public speaking, you will probably need to *push* yourself in the above areas.
- NOTE: *Practice* all of these things in normal conversations.

Be careful about turning to other passages. Don't plan on turning to other passages unless they are crucial to your teaching, because this disrupts flow and causes confusion for new listeners.

Trim verbal "fat."

- Ruthlessly edit information that does not illuminate, reinforce or apply your main truth!

- Avoid “uh's” and “you knows.”
- Avoid excessive redundancy.
- Don't narrate what you went through as you prepared your teaching.
- Don't tell people how exciting/awesome this point is. Be excited and persuade them so that they get excited about it.

After

Guide people to prayer as the high point of the meeting.

Immediately after prayer, look for opportunities to interact with individuals.

Commit your teaching to God.

At least periodically, record your teaching and listen to it a day or two later.

Solicit feedback, especially from experienced teachers.

Instructions for next week

Know your room assignment, and show up on time! Bring your video camera or ensure you can use another student's camera.